

Title of Research Project:

Women, family, work and welfare: A critical analysis of social citizenship

Researchers:

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Purpose:

This research project hopes to find out how different things, like going to work, doing training, looking for work, or going to school affect women. It also wants to find out how looking after a family as well as doing these other things affects women.

Methods:

You are being asked to talk to the researcher about getting welfare, working, looking for work, going to programs, or going to school. The researcher will ask you questions and you can answer in your own words. There are no right or wrong answers. The aim is to find out the different experiences that people have. This interview will last about 2 hours. After the interview you may be asked to talk to the researcher again. The reason for this is to make sure the researcher understands what you said. The researcher may also want to ask some questions that they only thought of after the first interview. The second interview will take about an hour.

Confidentiality:

The interview will be recorded on tape. The researcher will type the tape out. Your name will not be recorded on the tape or on the paper that is typed out. The name of anyone else you mention in your interview will also be removed. Instead of using names, a number will be given to your interview. Only two people will know the names of the people on the tape. These are the person who did the interview and their supervisor. Any information that has your name on it (like the tapes) will be locked up.

Interviews may be done at the place where the researcher asked you to be in the study (like at your work, or school). It is possible that the people at this place will know that you took part in this study. But, they will not know what you said. If you want you can do the interview somewhere else.

Your information will be protected as much as possible. But, in some cases your information may be required by law if there is a subpoena or mandatory reporting requirement.

The information you give will be destroyed five years after the research study is finished and published.

Benefits:

You may feel good about telling your story. You can also choose to receive a copy of the report that is made. This report may make you feel good because you may learn that you are not alone. Other than these benefits, this study may not have any direct benefits for you. But, it is hoped that the experiences of low-income women will be better understood. What is learned from these interviews will hopefully help policy makers make good decisions that affect the lives of low-income women.

Risks:

It is not expected that being in this study will harm you. But, you may feel upset, angry or frustrated with the welfare system, your work, or some agencies. The researcher will talk to you about your feelings and help you find the support you need.

Withdrawal from the study:

Even after you have agreed to do the interview you can decide you do not want to do the interview anymore. This can be before, after or in the middle of the interview. If you are asked to do a second interview you can decide that you do not want to do it. You can also decide after the first or second interview that you do not want what you said to be used. The researchers then cannot use what you said. You have up to the time that your interview is processed by the researcher. This will be about a week after you did the interview.

Use of your information:

This study is being done for a PhD thesis. The researcher is a student at the University of Melbourne.

This study is not being paid for by the Government or by any workplace, agency or training program. What you say in the interview cannot cause you to lose any of your benefits or your job. You cannot be kicked out of a training program or school course or have anything bad happen at your child's school or daycare.

What everyone says in the interviews will be made into a report called a thesis. If you want, a short version of this report will be mailed to you. None of the reports that get made will have your name in them.

Your information may also be used in reports and articles that will be published. Your name will not be included in these published papers. Fake names or numbers will be used instead. There will be no way of identifying you or anyone else you talked about in your interview.

Contact details:

If you have any more questions about this study you can call the researcher on the number on the previous page.

If you do not like something about the project or you have had a problem with the researcher you can contact the supervisor or the University ethics committee on the numbers below.

The Executive Officer
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